

1       **In the Claims**

2       Claims 1-31, 48-52 and 60 are cancelled without prejudice.

3       Claim 56 is amended.

4       Claims 32-47 and 53-59 remain in the application and are listed below.

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6       **CLAIMS**

7       1.-31 (Cancelled).

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9       32. (Original) A system comprising:

10       a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to receive data  
11       that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline;

12       an arbitrary ordering component operably associated with the stage  
13       assembly, the arbitrary ordering component comprising a first group of  
14       multiplexers and a second group of multiplexers;

15       a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components configured to  
16       process data from the stage assembly;

17       the first group of multiplexers having individual inputs received from the  
18       stage assembly and individual outputs provided to the rasterization pipeline; and

19       the second group of multiplexers having individual inputs received from the  
20       rasterization pipeline and individual outputs provided to the stage assembly.

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22       33. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein each individual  
23       component of the rasterization pipeline has an associated first group multiplexer  
24       from which it receives an input.  
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1           34. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein each individual input of  
2 a multiplexer of the second group is associated with a different component of the  
3 rasterization pipeline.

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5           35. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein each individual  
6 component of the rasterization pipeline has an associated first group multiplexer  
7 from which it receives an input, and each individual input of a multiplexer of the  
8 second group is associated with a different component of the rasterization pipeline.

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10          36. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the data comprises pixel  
11 data.

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13          37. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein the rasterization pipeline  
14 comprises at least one alpha blending component, and the arbitrary ordering  
15 component is configured to enable the alpha blending component to process the  
16 data before at least one other component of the rasterization pipeline.

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18          38. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein at least some of the  
19 stages have an output line that can route data to a next stage and to the  
20 multiplexers of the first group of multiplexers.

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22          39. (Original) The system of claim 32, wherein at least some of the  
23 stages have an input line that can receive data from a previous stage, or from a  
24 multiplexer of the second group of multiplexers.

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1           40. (Original) A computer system comprising:  
2           one or more processors;  
3           one or more computer-readable media for holding computer-readable  
4 instructions that are executable on the one or more processors;  
5           a graphics subsystem operably coupled with the one or more processors and  
6 comprising:  
7               a stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to  
8 receive data that is to be processed by a rasterization pipeline;  
9               an arbitrary ordering component operably associated with the stage  
10 assembly, the arbitrary ordering component comprising a first group of  
11 multiplexers and a second group of multiplexers;  
12               a rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components  
13 configured to process data from the stage assembly;  
14               the first group of multiplexers having individual inputs received  
15 from the stage assembly and individual outputs provided to the rasterization  
16 pipeline; and  
17               the second group of multiplexers having individual inputs received  
18 from the rasterization pipeline and individual outputs provided to the stage  
19 assembly.

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21           41. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein each  
22 individual component of the rasterization pipeline has an associated first group  
23 multiplexer from which it receives an input.  
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1        42. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein each  
2 individual input of a multiplexer of the second group is associated with a different  
3 component of the rasterization pipeline.

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5        43. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein each  
6 individual component of the rasterization pipeline has an associated first group  
7 multiplexer from which it receives an input, and each individual input of a  
8 multiplexer of the second group is associated with a different component of the  
9 rasterization pipeline.

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11        44. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the data  
12 comprises pixel data.

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14        45. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein the  
15 rasterization pipeline comprises at least one alpha blending component, and the  
16 arbitrary ordering component is configured to enable the alpha blending  
17 component to process the data before at least one other component of the  
18 rasterization pipeline.

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20        46. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein at least some  
21 of the stages have an output line that can route data to a next stage and to the  
22 multiplexers of the first group of multiplexers.

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1           47. (Original) The computer system of claim 40, wherein at least some  
2 of the stages have an input line that can receive data from a previous stage, or  
3 from a multiplexer of the second group of multiplexers.

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5           48.-52 (Cancelled)

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7           53. (Original) A method comprising:  
8 receiving, in a stage assembly, pixel data that is to be processed by a  
9 rasterization pipeline having a plurality of components comprising at least a  
10 texture component, a fog component and an alpha blending component;

11 selecting a first multiplexer, whose inputs are received from different stages  
12 of the stage assembly, sufficient to route the pixel data to one of the components  
13 of the rasterization pipeline;

14 processing the pixel data with the component to provide resultant pixel  
15 data; and

16 selecting a second multiplexer, whose inputs are received from different  
17 components of the rasterization pipeline, sufficient to route the resultant pixel data  
18 to the stage assembly.

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20           54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said act of selecting the  
21 first multiplexer can be performed such that the alpha blending component is not  
22 the last component in the rasterization pipeline to process the pixel data.

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1        55. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the first multiplexer  
2 comprises one multiplexer of a first group of multiplexers, and the second  
3 multiplexer comprises one multiplexer of a second group of multiplexers, each  
4 individual multiplexer of the first group having an output that is associated with a  
5 respective one of the components of the rasterization pipeline, each individual  
6 multiplexer of the second group having an output that is associated with a different  
7 respective stage of the stage assembly.

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9        56. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
10 associating a stage assembly with an arbitrary ordering component, the  
11 stage assembly comprising a plurality of stages configured to receive data that is  
12 to be processed by a rasterization pipeline, the arbitrary ordering component being  
13 configured to enable an arbitrary order of components of the rasterization pipeline  
14 to be specified for processing data from the stage assembly; and

15 associating a rasterization pipeline with the arbitrary ordering component,  
16 the rasterization pipeline comprising a plurality of components configured to  
17 process data from the stage assembly,

18 wherein the acts of associating are performed by operably connecting a  
19 plurality of multiplexers between the stage assembly and rasterization pipeline,  
20 wherein at least some of the multiplexers route pixel data from the stage assembly  
21 to the rasterization pipeline, and at least other of the multiplexers route resultant  
22 pixel data from the rasterization pipeline to the stage assembly.  
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1           57. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the act of associating  
2 the stage assembly comprises associating the stage assembly with a rasterization  
3 pipeline comprising at least one alpha blending component, the arbitrary ordering  
4 component being configured to enable the alpha blending component to process  
5 the data before another component of the rasterization pipeline.

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7           58. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the act of associating  
8 the stage assembly comprises associating the stage assembly with a rasterization  
9 pipeline comprising at least one fog component, at least one alpha blending  
10 component, and at least one texture component, the arbitrary ordering component  
11 being configured to enable the alpha blending component to process the data  
12 before another component of the rasterization pipeline.

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14           59. (Original) The method of claim 56, wherein the act of associating  
15 the stage assembly comprises associating the stage assembly with a rasterization  
16 pipeline comprising at least one fog component, at least one alpha blending  
17 component, at least one texture component, and at least one specular component,  
18 the arbitrary ordering component being configured to enable the alpha blending  
19 component to process the data before another component of the rasterization  
20 pipeline.

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22           60. (Cancelled)  
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